(a) whether Government have finally decided not to supply sugar through public distribution completely;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not doing so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import of Edible oil

3671. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds used to import edible oil on Government account for the last two years;

(b) the amount of funds used to import edible oil on private account for the last two years; and

(c) the amount of Central funds used for development of oilseeds in the farm sector for the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The amount of funds used to import edible oil on Government account for the last two years, *i.e.,* 1997-98 and 1998-99 have been Rs. 195.53 Crores and Rs. 485.03 Crores respectively.

(b) Import of edible oil is on OGL and private trade imports different kinds of edible oils from different kinds of edible oils from different destinations at Different points of time. Government does not keep an account of funds used in the import of commodities by private trade. According to the figures published by DGCI&S, Calcutta, the value of edible oils imported during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is Rs. 2,765 crores and Rs. 7,131 crores respectively.

(c) A centrally sponsored Oilseed Production Programme (OPP) is being implemented by the Agriculture Ministry for the development of Oilseeds. The phasing of the central expenditure for the implementation of Oilseeds production programmes (OPP) during 1997-98 and 1999-2000 have been Rs. 109.73crores and Rs. 102.30 crores respectively.